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KSP-11545

MID-AMERICA REFINERY COMPANY (MARCO)
STATEMENT OF WORK

PURPOSE:

This action is authorized under Section 311© of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act ("Clean Water Act") as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 which allows for the removal or arrangements for the removal of oil-contaminated materials and debris to mitigate or prevent a substantial threat of a discharge of oil.

The deteriorated condition of the tanks and the eroded underground and aboveground piping which still contain petroleum materials, as well as the oil-contaminated soils pose:

- i. A substantial threat of a discharge of oil into or on navigable waters and/or the adjoining shorelines of navigable waters; and/or
- ii. A substantial threat of a discharge of oil of such a size or character as to be a substantial threat to the public health or welfare of the United States.

BACKGROUND:

The Mid-America Refinery Company in Chanute, Kansas, is a 25-acre abandoned oil refinery. This facility operated as a crude oil processor from 1934 until it was shut down due to bankruptcy in February 1981. An initial site investigation indicated that at least 40% of the 138 tanks that were on-site had inadequate diking. Surface soil samples found total petroleum hydrocarbon contamination up to 165,400 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg). Excessive runoff and pools of oily water were noted throughout the site during heavy precipitation.

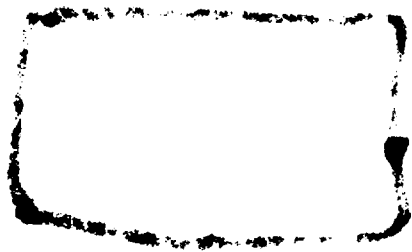
The property was bought by a trustee of the Robert Cooley Trust Fund in January 1994. Mr. Robert Moore is the trustee. Numerous Unilateral Administrative Orders (UAOs) have been issued to the trustee to clean-up this site. These UAOs have not been successful in motivating the trust to clean-up the site. Presently, the whereabouts of Mr. Moore are unknown.

A 1994 CERCLA clean-up addressed hazardous waste and asbestos that was located on-site. Fifty-nine tanks, containing approximately 111,300 gallons of petroleum related waste remained on-site after this clean-up action due to the CERCLA petroleum exclusion provision.

After the CERCLA clean-up was completed, the trustee obtained the services of numerous scrap metal salvagers. Due to these scrapping efforts, tops and sides of tanks have been cut off which has allowed rainwater to collect in the tanks and the petroleum materials to directly discharge onto the ground. Because the site sits on a steep hill, run-off from rain events allow these petroleum materials to discharge into a drainage ditch, that runs through a wetlands and discharges into Village Creek which discharges into the Neosho River, the source for drinking water for the city of Chanute. Presently, there are 27 tanks remaining on-site containing approximately 80,000 gallons of petroleum related materials.



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SUPERFUND RECORDS



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TANK CONDITIONS:

During the 16 years that the refinery has been closed, the tanks have continued to rust and degrade. No maintenance, corrosion control, leak testing, etc., has been done to maintain the integrity of these tanks. Numerous tanks have no berms around them to serve as secondary containment in the event of any spills or tank failures. There is evidence in the oily water around some of the tanks that do have berms, that the tank contents have leaked out. This has caused extensive soil contamination around and under the tanks. Salvagers have further destroyed numerous tanks by cutting off tank tops and leaving product in the bottoms of the tanks, causing the contents to overflow onto the ground. None of the tanks on-site are serviceable due to their deteriorated condition.

Rusting underground and above ground piping is located throughout the site. The majority of these pipes still contain petroleum products. When salvagers worked on the site, improper techniques of cutting pipes which contained flammable petroleum products had resulted in numerous fires and petroleum discharges. Some of these fires crossed the road and burned out wetland vegetation and fields. On several occasions, salvagers set tank contents on fire to remove the petroleum material in the tanks. Since the refinery is located adjacent to a housing area, the thick black smoke posed a substantial threat to public health and welfare of residents. There is evidence that petroleum contamination has reached ground water.

ACTION PLAN:

A site-specific work plan will address the removal and proper treatment and/or disposal of petroleum tank contents and sludge pit wastes, removal and disposal of above ground and below ground piping and contents, cutting up and scrapping of tanks to allow for the removal of petroleum-contaminated soils located beneath the tanks, in the bermed areas surrounding the tanks, and in other petroleum contaminated spill areas, and the containerization and treatment of petroleum contaminated water. As part of this action, a bioremediation study will be conducted to determine if soils can be treated on site. This work plan will also allow for the final grading and revegetation of disturbed areas.

